

Volume 3, Issue 3

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# *Inside Your Third*

*The Newsletter for the Third Taxing District*

*Two Second Street East Norwalk, CT 06855*

*www.ttd.gov 866-9271*

## **Your Commission**

David L. Brown  
*Chairman*  
Stephen M. Feinstein  
*Commissioner*  
Paul S. Coggin  
*Commissioner*  
John L. Mola  
*Treasurer*  
Victor J. Tenore  
*Electrical General Manager*

## **Upcoming Events:**

- March 6 Annual District Meeting, 7:00 PM, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, East Avenue, Family Parish Center
- March 25 Regular Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM, Library, Eunice Van Zilen Room
- April 22 Regular Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM, Library, Eunice Van Zilen Room

**For those that returned the community survey – Thank you! So far we have received several hundred responses – a tremendous response by any measure. It will take a few weeks to compile the results; look for a summary of the results in the April edition of *Inside Your Third*.**

## **Ninety-Three East Avenue**

This historic building, which dates to the late 1700s and is listed on the National Register, has been in the news a lot lately. The current owner (Mr. Chris Handrinis, according to the *Norwalk Hour*, who also owns the Norwalk Inn) has sought a number of City permits and variances in order to be allowed to demolish the building, and replace it with a new, modern building to expand the Inn. Although the new, larger building proposed by the Inn gives the “appearance of an older architecture”, the original building would be lost completely. Many see this as a loss for the City, because 93 East Avenue is one of the City’s oldest buildings and is intertwined with our rich history. The building is apparently part of a National Historic District called the Norwalk Green (where many of our District-sponsored summer concerts are held). Although the building doesn’t technically reside within the District, in the interest of the community at large, Commissioner Coggin and Treasurer Mola have gone on public record for a solution which calls for its preservation and renovation. For preservationists, however, it may be an uphill battle. If you’d like to help save this 1700s home from the wrecking ball, please contact the President of the Norwalk Green Historic Alliance, Tod Bryant, at 852-9788, or visit [www.norwalkhistoric.org](http://www.norwalkhistoric.org).



## Our Source of Clean, Renewable Hydropower May Be at Risk

The two projects at issue are the St. Lawrence-FDR project on the St. Lawrence River and the Niagara project near Niagara Falls. It all has to do with allocation. When the Federal government approved the development of these two hydro projects some 50 or so years ago, the Federal government noted that, because these projects use international waters, they were in effect resources that should be shared among the entire northeast region. The Federal government mandated regional allocation, even though the hardware (i.e., dams and generators) for the projects are located in NY State. Specifically, during the licensing process approximately 50 years ago, the Federal government required NY State to allocate some of this power to neighboring states, including Connecticut. In addition to being a clean, reliable source of energy, hydropower from these existing projects costs about 60 or 70 percent less than other, fossil-fuel based sources.

Federal rules require that these projects get re-licensed every 50 years. In the re-license application for the St. Lawrence project NY has specifically ignored its regional responsibilities and seeks to keep 100 percent of the power within its borders. It is expected that NY will seek the same when it submits its re-licensing application for the Niagara project in a few years. What does this mean for us? Although the current allocation to the neighboring states is relatively small, and the portion flowing to East Norwalk even smaller relative to our other sources, it will adversely impact the cost at which we acquire electricity, perhaps by several percent.

What are we doing? Governor Rowland has assigned CMEEC to be the so-called "bargaining agent" for Connecticut. (CMEEC is the co-op that TTD Electric belongs to and obtains wholesale power from.) As a result, CMEEC, Victor Tenore of the Electrical Department and your Commissioners Coggin and Feinstein have been actively lobbying members of Congress on this issue, and have also been coordinating efforts across state lines with the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA) and with congressional delegations in those states.

NY State has thus far remained inflexible, making it clear this will be a political battle. What can you do? Call or write your congressman (the Honorable Shays, Lieberman or Dodd) and ask them to make sure that Connecticut continues to receive allocations from these important hydro projects.

### New District Policies Enacted

During the past several months, your Commission has created a series of new policies to clarify how the District Commissioners operate, facilitate participation by the public and Commissioners alike, and perhaps most importantly, address possible lapses of compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by the prior Commission. With guidance from the District's legal counsel, specific policies that have been adopted by the new Commission include:

- ☐ Policy regarding announcement of Commission meetings.
- ☐ Policy regarding creation and posting of the records of votes and of minutes.
- ☐ Policy regarding creation and publication of District newsletter.
- ☐ Policy regarding creating content for and updating District website.

In addition, your Commission updated the District's purchasing & procurement policy, which in the past did not require separate written bids for District expenditures. Commissioner Coggin authored the new policy, which requires three documented verbal quotes for expenditures between \$1,500 and \$14,999, and requires at least three written, competitive bid for expenditures greater than \$15,000.

### Energy Items

\* In a speech January 24, 2002, Dick Gephardt called for big push on renewables and fuel cells. As of February 23rd 2002, the full text of this speech was available at <http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/energy/02012401.htm>.

\* According to the American Wind Energy Association, 2001 was a great year for wind power and a record amount of new capacity was added: in 2001 the amount of wind capacity increased by 60 percent over the year before. Total installed capacity in the US is now 4,258 MW, with wind turbines in 26 states.

\* "APPA is pleased with the outcome of the Senate Finance Committee's work on the tax portion of a broad energy bill" said American Public Power Association (APPA) President and CEO Alan Richardson, according to *Public Power Weekly* (February 18, 2002). According to the article, Richardson went on to say that the Senate Finance Committee's "tradable tax credit provisions also provide a workable alternative for not-for-profit community and state-owned electric utilities to invest in renewable resources and clean energy technologies."

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